

Approved 12/14/2004.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Special Meeting

Tuesday, December 7, 2004, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Call to Order. Chairperson David S. Gordon called the Special Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Newport Area Career and Technical Center. Attendance was as follows: School Committee: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, Mary Jane Barry, Ph.D., Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., David R. Carlin, Jo Eva Gaines, and Thomas S. Phelan; School Committee Members-Elect: Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker and Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr.; School Department: Superintendent of Schools Mary C. Canole, Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Robert B. Power, Ed.D. (absent), Director of Special Education Linda Martin (absent), Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Judith M. Droitcour (absent), Business Manager Bruce Alexander, Director of Property Services Paul Fagan (absent), Coordinator of Human Resources and Information Services Fran Eames (absent), School Building Principals (absent), Administrators (absent), and School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin.

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At approximately 6 p.m., a buffet was served.

At approximately 6:10 p.m., the Business Meeting began.

1.0 Personnel Actions.

1.1 Termination. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to consent to the approval of the Termination of Wennzdehl Powell, Para Educator, Special Education, Thompson Middle School, as presented. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary reminded the Committee that he had voted against the initial hire of this individual.

1.2 Retirements. N/A.

1.3 Leaves of Absence. N/A.

1.4 Appointments/Transfers/Recalls.

Appointments.

Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of Lee Russell, Grade 6 Teacher, Social Studies/English Language Arts, Thompson Middle School, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of Michael J. Lopes, Title I Reading Teacher, Districtwide, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary and Members David R. Carlin and Thomas S. Phelan stated that they wouldn't support the motion. Mr. Leary stated that he could not support the motion as it was not clear how the position would be funded, that the position should have been reposted because only three candidates were interviewed, and that they were interviewed and brought before the School Committee at the August 20, 2004, Meeting. Mr. Carlin stated that he could not support the motion because the recommended candidate would be hired at the highest step. The motion carried (4-3). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson David S. Gordon, Mary Jane Barry, Ph.D., Hugo J. DeAscentis, and Jo Eva Gaines. Those Members voting against the motion were: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, David R. Carlin, and Thomas S. Phelan.

Transfers. N/A.

Recalls. N/A.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole read aloud the approved Personnel Actions dated December 7, 2004, as presented.

2.0 Request for Waiver of Rental Fees. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to consent to the approval of the Request for Waiver of Rental Fees from First Night Newport, as presented. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

3.0 Requests for Conferences/Workshops. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the two Requests for Conferences/Workshops, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

4.0 Orientation Workshop. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole and School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin reviewed the following Orientation Workshop topics with the School Committee-Elect: Getting to Know Each Other; Understanding Your Role; School Committee Organizational Meeting—Walk Through; Setting Goals; and Resources for Review. Committee Members and Members-Elect stated why they wanted to run for School Committee and what they hope to accomplish. Discussion followed on the following topics: School Committee acting as a Board and not as

individuals; Essential Powers of School Committee Members: Appoints Superintendent and provides advice and consent on all appointments; Recusal Forms (distributed and reviewed when an individual needs to submit a recusal form); Open Meeting Act; Executive Session: By motion and vote—individual has a right to have discussion in open session—a. personal—job performance, b. collective bargaining or litigation, c. matters of security, d. investigations of misconduct, e. lease of real property—disposition of real property, f. student disciplinary hearings, and g. grievance for collective bargaining. Discussion then followed relative to: protection about defamation suits, relationship between City Council and School Committee—City Council appropriates funds, Charter Provisions—elections, vacancies, Caruolo Process—to go through the budget process—submit request for appropriation to City, and the need for more informal sessions.

An informational vote, not official until voted on at the School Committee Meeting of January 11, 2005, was taken relative to the nomination of the School Committee Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the Calendar Year of 2005. Mr. Leary nominated Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker for Chairperson of the Newport School Committee. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). Dr. Hilton nominated Robert J. Leary for Vice Chairperson of the Newport School Committee. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

School Committee Assignments. Committee Members indicated which Subcommittees they wished to serve on. Dr. Shoemaker will consider all requests and prepare the assignments for action at the January 11, 2005, Regular School Committee Meeting.

A Special Meeting of the School Committee will be scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2004, at 7 p.m., at the Thompson Middle School Beatrice Berman Bazarsky Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria for the purpose of a Strategic Work Session relative to Elementary Schools—Configuration. Mr. James J. Reed, Executive Director, for the Housing Authority of the City of Newport, will be invited to review enrollment projections.

5.0 Executive Session.

At 9:00 p.m., Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to go into Executive Session under jurisdiction of Rhode Island State Law, Chapter 46, 42-46-5 – Exceptions (a)(1) Personal Matters, and the person or persons affected have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may request that the discussion be held in an open session; and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPEN SESSION

At 9:35 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

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Adjournment. At 9:40 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

David S. Gordon	Mary C. Canole, Ed.D.
Chairperson	Clerk